

### In the Claims

Please delete all the reference numerals and amend the claims as follows:

#### Claim 1

1. (Amended) A circular cutter unit for cutting [flat] lengths of flat material [such as sheet metal in a horizontal plane (10)] comprising :

upper and lower circular blades lying in planes substantially perpendicular to the [horizontal] plane of the flat material and parallel with a longitudinal direction of the material;

upper and lower blade shafts respectively supporting said upper and lower blades, said shafts extending parallel with said [horizontal] plane of the material and perpendicular to said longitudinal direction;

a non-positive drive connection between said blade including a transport ring mounted for rotation with one of the blades and in driving engagement with the other of the blade shafts;

a frame having substantially a U-shape when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the flat material with the upper and lower legs interconnected by a flat yoke intersecting said [horizontal] plane of the material at an acute angle,

means for rotatably supporting said upper and lower blade shafts respectively in said upper and lower legs;

means for establishing and adjusting a cutting gap between said two circular blades; and

means for releasably coupling one of the circular blades of said cutter unit to a driving unit having a motor; and;

B6 [means for non-positively connecting one of said two circular blades to said motor of said driving unit].

Claim 2

Line 2, please delete "adjustable" and insert --adjusted to--

Claim 3

CB7 (Amended) A circular cutter unit according to claim 1 wherein said means for [non-positively connecting] releasably coupling one of [said] <sup>circular</sup> the blades is [connected] coupled to said lower <sup>circular</sup> blade.

Claim 4

Please cancel claim 4.

Claim 5

B8 (Amended) A circular cutter unit according to claim 1 wherein the transport ring of said non-positive drive connection between said blade shafts [comprises a friction drive] is in frictional driving engagement with the other of the blades.

Claim 8

Line 3, please delete "adjustable within the" and insert --adjusted to a--.

Claim 9

Please cancel claim 9.

CB9  
CB  
Claim 10

(Amended) A circular cutter unit according to claim [9] 1 wherein said upper and lower <sup>blade</sup> shafts support said circular blades in overlapping relationship at a cutting angle in a a [the] range of 6 to 8° at a <sup>circular</sup> nib of the overlapping blades.

Claim 12

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

Claim 13

Please cancel claim 13

Claim 14

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

Claim 15

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

Claim 17

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

<sup>13</sup>  
Claim 18

(Amended) An apparatus for cutting flat lengths of sheet metal in a generally horizontal plane [including] comprising:

1 a plurality of circular cutting units each [comprising] including:

5 upper and lower circular blades lying in planes substantially perpendicular to the horizontal plane and parallel with a longitudinal direction [of] in which the [material] sheet metal is fed between the circular blades,

*circular*  
upper and lower blade shafts respectively supporting said upper and lower blades, said shafts extending parallel with said horizontal plane and perpendicular to said longitudinal direction,

*frictional*  
10 a ~~non-positive~~ drive connection between said blade shafts including a transport ring mounted respectively on each one of the upper and lower blade shafts adjacent the upper and lower circular blades respectively, and disposed in frictional *relationship* driving engagement with the circular blade on the other of the upper and lower blade shafts;

*15* a frame having substantially a U-shape when viewed from above the horizontal plane with upper and lower legs interconnected by a flat yoke intersecting said horizontal plane at an acute angle, and

*17* means for rotatably supporting said upper and lower blade shafts respectively in said upper and lower legs, and means for establishing and adjusting a cutting gap between said two circular blades; and

*20* means for releasably coupling each said cutter unit to a driving unit having a motor whereby each said cutter unit can be released driven from said [apparatus] driving unit independently of each other cutting unit;

*25* a plurality of parallel guide rails extending perpendicular to said longitudinal direction; and

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means on each of said frames slidabl[e]y engaging said guide rails so that each of said circular cutter units is independently positionable along said rails.

Claim 19

Line 2, please delete "is capable of setting" and insert --sets--.

Claim 20

(Amended) An apparatus according to claim <sup>13</sup>18 wherein said circular cutting units are mounted on said guide rails with said circular cutting blades [thereof] of each <sup>circular</sup> cutting unit oriented in [the same direction] parallel relationship with the <sup>circular</sup> blades of the other cutting units.

Claim 21

Line 2, please delete "such as sheet metal";

Line 17,18, please delete these lines.

In the Abstract

Please delete the reference numerals.

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in the application as amended above are claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-21.

Drawings

Applicant is enclosing for approval a set of informal drawings which illustrate in red the reference  $\alpha$  in Fig. 2 as mentioned on page 5 (amended above) and a reversal of the reference numerals 26 and 27 in Fig. 1 for consistency with Fig.

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